Government Colony in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi being systematically destroyed by the hired men of M/s Modern Bazar and Hotel Vasant Continental for their commercial benefit; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from Delhi Administration and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Dilution of equity by Hindustan Lever Limited

278. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Lever Limited has not diluted its equity below 51% as per the provisions of FERA even though 74% of its production and sales is in low technology area of soaps and detergents;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the operation of such a multinational company in low technology area is against Government's policy thereby affecting the growth of indigenous and small scale industries; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Hindustan Lever Limited was permitted under Section 29(2)(a) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to continue to carry on its business in India with 51% foreign equity subject, *inter-alia*, to the conditions that (i) the company's annual turnover from Appendix I activity, products/process involving sophisticated technology and own exports would not be less than 60% of the company's total turnover; and (ii) not less than 10% of the company's own production during each year would be exported.

The company has been fulfilling these stipulations.

(c) Does not arise.

Impounding of aircraft by the Customs Department

279. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs Department, Bombay have impounded two newly purchased aircraft by the Air India on account of non-payment of duties by the Air India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Air India had not applied for the total duty exemption to the Customs Department before bringing the new aircraft; and

(d) if so, what is the present position of the case with regard to the release of these aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) M/s. Air India applied for total exemption from Customs duty leviable on two B-747-300 (Combi) aircraft to be imported into India before bringing them into the country.

(d) The aircraft have already been released.

Adoption of legal device by Smugglers to avoid detention Under COFEPOSA

280. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that suspected

smugglers are resorting to legal device to avoid detention under COFEPOSA;

(b) what is the number of stay granted to the suspected smugglers by various courts for avoiding detention during the last three years;

(c) what are the names of the courts which have granted stay; and

(d) what are the figures of the stay vacated or made permanent and also the reasons for vacation and making them permanent.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) 112 persons have been granted stay.

(c) The High Courts which granted such interim injunction are Allahabad High Court, Calcutta High Court, Delhi High Court, Madras High Court and Panaji Bench of Bombay High Court.

(d) Stay has been got vacated in 23 cases on the following grounds:

Jurisdictional	1
Merits	18
Withdrawal of petitions	4

Apart from the above, one detention order itself was quashed. In none of the cases the stay has been made permanent.

Death of a Jeweller in Rajkot

281. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the death of a Rajkot jeweller was caused due to the alleged inhuman treatment meted out to him during the raid in January 1989, by the raiding party of the Income Tax Department; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what steps are being contemplated to avoid recurrence of such unfortunate incidents in future and whether there was a hartal organised to protest against alleged inhuman treatment; and

(c) if so, what are the deails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of reply at (a) above, the question of taking any steps to avoid recurrence of the alleged inhuman treatment does not arise.

Certain business establishments of Rajkot remained closed between 11-1-1989 and 15-1-1989 in response to a Bandh call given by two trade associations of Rajkot.

Smuggling of Gold

282. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated quantity of gold smuggled into India annually,

(b) whether Government have verified the estimates of the mercantile community that annual requirement of gold is 200 tonnes per annum and local supply is only 40 tonnes;

(c) whether 160 tonnes of gold is smuggled into India annually;

(d) whether it is a fact that bullion market sources in London indicate through media that around 140 tonnes of gold is smuggled into India;

(e) whether Government have worked out any scheme to make smuggling unattractive, if so, what are the details of the scheme; and

(f) whether Government propose to convene a conference of concerned circles including merchants to counter smuggling of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) Available reports and seizures made indicate that